

# The Legend of the Black Mace

## Chapter 1: The Cult

by *Wu-Tang Xiao*

It was during my quest against the foul shadow creatures that I came across an odd company of 3 powerful fighters against the darkness. *Tat Wan Asi*, a horseman from the North, inspired by the glittering coin, *Sing Sang*, a korobokuru rebel and former sailor, and *Yamamoto*, a samurai with what seemed to be a great destiny.

Travelling with these companions, I came upon a shrine of a minor spirit of merry disposition. The drunken monk tending to the shrine allowed us to stay for the night - a good thing as foul reptiles from the shadow plane tried to abduct him! All this was part of a plot to open a rift to the shadow plane by sacrificing 8 holy men in a gruesome ritual. We were ready for this, however, and defended the monastery chosen as site for the cruel deed against the assailants - misled peasants opposing the rule of the Daimyo as we found out later. The ancestors granted us victory but *Sing Sang* was forever marked with the scars of the very fire he used to defend the holy men.

## Chapter 2: The Dead Master

by *Wu-Tang Xiao*

Recovering from the injuries of our epic battle, we travelled on in our quest against evil, when we came upon a monastery. The monks were troubled for one of them had disappeared years ago and now haunted them as a ghost. Despite initial misunderstandings the monks allowed us to help and we found out that the disappearance of the master was no coincidence. The gardener of the

monastery had his heart full of rage against the master and gave him a poison to drive him mad. Later, the master returned to avenge this foul deed and only by burying him together with the antidote could we put his soul at rest.

Sadly enough, *Yamamoto* passed away while saving the fallen *Sing Sang* from the attacks of the incorporeal foe.

I stayed at the monastery after the events and *Sing Sang* and *Asi* went on to fight the vile incursion that was supposed to plague the *Nezumi Network*, a tunnel complex inhabited by the crafty rat folk.

## Chapter 3: The Three Raiders

by *Jade Dragon*

My venerable ancestor, the mighty *Fu Dao*, appeared in my dreams on that fateful day, telling me to assault a dark castle not far of my route. Never doubting his guidance, I altered my path and met the most curious people you can imagine. *Master Wu*, a weird-looking wu jen whose chosen dress suggests colour-blindness and who always reminded me of a monkey, *Sing Sang*, a tiny troublemaker who somehow thinks that he must be a real womaniser, despite his scars and rude behaviour, and *Tat Wan Asi*, a slightly overweight barbarian from the North.

Why I had to join up with these people is known only to *Doa* - their plans nearly got me killed! In the end however, we defeated not only the shadow giant who ruled over the castle but also a wu jen master of air and a bandit gang, all of which terrorised the local villagers. We freed *Malang*, a red rider of the North, who had been under the evil spell of the giant *Jiao Ba*, and after helping us to defeat the evildoers, he chose his own path, offended by the way those wackos treated him. *Handsome* was another person we liberated - a nice man of perfect manners, the definition of goodness.



Never doubting my ancestor, I joined forces with these errant champions and travelled on to the Nezumi Network.

## Chapter 4: The Nezumi Network

*By Handsome*

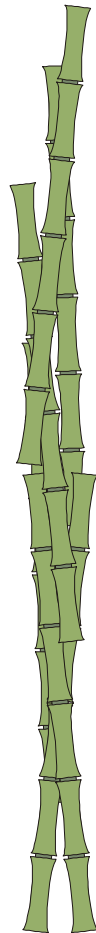
Those fools! Not only did they do me a major favour by killing my master, the unpredictable *Floating Fox*, I was also able to convince them that I was a prisoner! What a terrible turn of events though, when they decided to take me with them. I could have taken over the base and become a warlord in no time. So, I decided to bide my time and good I did with that.

Those fools were eager to run into their doom. Apparently, one of them was friends with a hobgoblin khan from the past and therefore the simpletons decided to join the hobgoblins *in one of their suicide charges!* To do this, they signed up with *Green Claw*, a nezumi chosen one of great influence, and pledged to free a fortified site of the unidentified enemy. After 3 days, Jade Dragon returned alone, half-mad from the battle. She talked about a naked red-skinned man who was a master of fire magic, who had taken the rest of the gang prisoners while she was pretending to be dead. She also claimed that one of my former associates, that berserk barbarian *Wu Hsien* had returned as a ghost. What a load is that? Anyway, finally rid of those idiots, I was able to take the little valuables that they had left behind and decided to... but that's another story.

## Chapter 5: Beneath the Southern Sea

*By Chun Weng Dao*

The darks gods smile upon me. After endless days in the slavery of the behated Mind Flayers, a slight glimmer of hope!



Wu Fu, my old friend has come to rescue me. The scorch of the North, slayer of innocents. And he has brought some friends with him, some Northland barbarian, a woman that moves with the grace of Kuo-Toa monitor, and the dreaded Sing Sang. Will they rescue me from this terrible place?

My gods, a day has passed since my last entry and already have terrible things befallen me. The friends of Wu Fu have attacked a guest of the Mind Flayers and they have chopped off our left arms as a warning! Sing Sang was subjected to a vile experiment and now has tentacles. What is worse - he seems to enjoy it! My gods, will the pain ever end? At least, they are letting us go on mission outside now. To finally feel the cool water again! Wu Fu has found some kind of secret library and I am sure he will find a way to get us out of this dreadful place.

## Chapter 6: Back in the Empire

*By Chun Weng Dao*

Wu Fu has saved us. He made a deal with some polymorphed sorcerer in shark form who helped us reach the shore in return for his retransformation. But already new trouble was brewing - the graceful woman had a dream that the ashes of her grandfather were in danger and we went to rescue them. This brought us to a strange city full of boats, but a nice place with a lot of water. Of course, we set us to teach the locals who the true masters were, but through trickery, deceit, and numerical superiority they almost killed us. I still thank the dark gods that we finally found the Blue Hunter, some carp hengeyokai who had taken the ashes to divine where the water scroll was hidden.

In our usual foolhardiness we decided to set out and recover the scroll for him. However, despite ill omens we decided to camp for three days, and were

attacked by hordes of ninja under the leadership of a red skinned nudist. We barely escaped, leaving the shattered body of Sing Sang floating down the river.

## Chapter 7: Return to the Networks

### *By Handsome*

Curse the Spirits. Almost half a year after those fools had gone to their apparent death and I had set up a false temple using their likeness, they returned! As usual, I wanted to spend some time in the Pink Dragon Inn, together with my lovely bodyguard Yi and Yo O, when I spotted the motely party - minus Sing Sang - sitting there and planning my death. Instantly, I ordered my lovely ladies to help them along to the next cycle of reincarnation but after slaying the beautiful Yi, they caught up with me, tied me up, and for ever ruined my comfortable life as a high priest. Curse them!

Apparently, however, they got themselves into some trouble as well. During the fight, the son of the Captain of the 66 Crossbows was slain by a disguised assassin of the Red Sash Society. I wish they would have been hanged but they quickly proved their innocence and even managed to solve the mystery! 4000 imperial gold coins were their reward! How I hate them. Now that they have ruined my life, I have to wander to a different town, find new fools to fleece, and maybe one day get my revenge on these damn bastards.

